



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

June 29, 2005

News Release

PAKISTANI NATIONAL INDICTED ON FEDERAL FALSE STATEMENTS CHARGE

BOSTON—A Pakistani national appeared today in federal court for the first time in the District of Massachusetts on an Indictment charging him with aiding and abetting false statements.

United States Attorney Michael J. Sullivan and Robin M. Avers, special agent-in-charge of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in New England, announced today that Azhar Ehsan, age 32, of Pakistan, appeared today before U.S. Magistrate Judge Robert B. Collings on a one-count Indictment charging him with aiding and abetting false statements.

According to the Indictment, Ehsan provided false information to an American company (which, unbeknownst to Ehsan, was an ICE undercover company) to be included in an invitation letter sent on June 18, 2001, by the undercover company to the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan in order to assist Ehsan in obtaining a visa to enter the United States.

Ehsan was arrested in connection with these charges on May 2, 2005 in Georgia and has been in federal custody since that time. Ehsan is being held pending a detention hearing next week before Chief U.S. Magistrate Judge Charles B. Swartwood, III. An exact date has not yet been scheduled. Ehsan is scheduled to be arraigned before U.S. Magistrate Judge Collings on July 19, 2005 at 3:00 p.m. If convicted, Ehsan faces a maximum sentence of 5 years in prison to be followed by 3 years of supervised release, and a \$250,000 fine. Additionally, Ehsan faces deportation to his native Pakistan following completion of any sentence imposed.

The case was investigated by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Gregory Moffatt in Sullivan's Anti-Terrorism and National Security Section.

The details contained in the Indictment are allegations. The defendant is presumed to be innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.